September 13, 2005

TO ALL LICENSEES AND REGISTERED ENTITIES UNDER THE CHECK CASHER LICENSING ACT:

The news and images of Hurricane Katrina's aftermath are simply heartbreaking. One look at the devastation and it is clear that residents of the Gulf Coast will need help for a long time to come. Evacuees are now being relocated to emergency shelters around the country, including Pennsylvania. Others have found temporary homes with friends, family, and universities in the Commonwealth.

Federal banking regulators have already asked financial institutions under their authority to voluntarily modify certain practices to assist Katrina evacuees. I urge you, as Pennsylvania-licensed or registered check cashers, to do the same. Please consider waiving your fees when cashing Social Security, insurance, and other checks presented to you by victims of Katrina.

The victims of Hurricane Katrina have lost so much already. I hope that the check cashing industry and other financial service providers of the Commonwealth will extend their compassion and generosity to those seeking refuge in our state.

Sincerely,

A. William Schenck III Secretary of Banking

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